

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT OF ARKANSAS
CENTRAL DIVISION**

**SOUTHERN FARM BUREAU LIFE
INSURANCE COMPANY,**

PLAINTIFF

v.

CASE NO. 4:21-CV-00219 LPR

TJ JEFFERS AND EMILY SANDERLIN,

DEFENDANTS

FINAL SCHEDULING ORDER

Pursuant to Rule 16(e) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED:

1. TRIAL DATE

This case is scheduled for a **BENCH TRIAL** before Judge Lee P. Rudofsky commencing at **9:30 a.m.** sometime during the week of **November 28, 2022**, in Courtroom #2A, Richard Sheppard Arnold United States Courthouse, 500 West Capitol, Little Rock, Arkansas 72201. If counsel wish to bring electronic devices to the courthouse for any proceeding, please note General Order No. 54.

2. DISCOVERY

Discovery should be completed no later than **July 6, 2022**. All discovery requests and motions must be filed sufficiently in advance of that date to allow for a timely response. The parties may conduct discovery beyond this date if all parties are in agreement to do so; but the Court will not resolve any disputes in the course of this extended discovery. Witnesses and exhibits not identified in response to appropriate discovery may not be used at trial except in extraordinary circumstances. The Court will not grant a continuance because a party does not have time in which to depose a witness, expert or otherwise.

A discovery motion must not be filed until counsel has made a good faith effort to resolve the discovery dispute. Upon the filing of such motion, a response should be filed promptly. A conference call will be scheduled to resolve such matters if the Court deems it necessary.

3. EXPERT DISCLOSURES AND REPORTS

Case-in-chief expert disclosures, including reports, must be made by **May 2, 2022**. Rebuttal expert disclosures, including reports, must be made by **June 1, 2022**. These disclosures must be in writing, signed, and served. They are not filed in the Clerk's Office.

4. ADDITION OF PARTIES/AMENDMENT OF PLEADINGS

Leave to add parties or amend pleadings must be sought no later than **June 6, 2022**. Local Rule 5.5(e) requires a party to attach the proposed amended pleading to the motion. Please make this attachment a redline or comparison copy showing all proposed changes. Counsel should confer about proposed amendments. State in the motion to amend whether the change is agreed or opposed.

5. PROTECTIVE ORDERS

Before filing a motion for approval, counsel should email a draft order in Word to chambers for review. Alert the law clerk on the case to the draft's submission. Avoid legalese. Short, plain orders are better than long, complicated ones. Incorporate Fed. R. Civ. P. 5.2's mandate for redaction if practicable before any filing under seal. The order should remain in effect no longer than one year after litigation ends, not in perpetuity. Incorporate the procedure for discovery disputes, see *infra*, to cover disputes about whether a document is confidential.

6. STATUS REPORT

A status report must be filed with the Clerk's office on or before **August 1, 2022**. The report must include the date and results of any settlement conference, the settlement prospects, and an estimate of the length of trial.

7. MOTION DEADLINE

All motions, except motions in limine, must be filed on or before **August 1, 2022**. Motions for summary judgment must comply with Fed. R. Civ. P. 56 and Local Rules 7.2 and 56.1. In addition, parties are directed to submit a courtesy copy of the motion for summary judgment, responses, replies, and supporting briefs and exhibits to chambers. Motions in limine must be filed on or before **November 18, 2022**, and responses must be filed five (5) calendar days thereafter. Motions submitted after the deadline may be denied solely on that ground.

Local Rule 7.2(b) provides: "Within fourteen (14) days from the date of service of copies of a motion and supporting papers, any party opposing a motion shall serve and file with the Clerk a concise statement in opposition to the motion with supporting authorities. A party moving for summary judgment will have seven (7) days to file a reply in further support of the motion. A party seeking relief under 28 U.S.C. § 2254 or 28 U.S.C. § 2255 may file a reply within seven (7) days of the response. For cause shown, the Court may by order shorten or lengthen the time for the filing of responses and replies. Fed. R. Civ. P. 6, including subparagraph 6(d), determines how the days are counted under this local rule, unless the Court specifies otherwise." The Court may or may not wait on the filing of a reply before ruling on the motion. No surresponse or surreply will be permitted, absent express direction of the Court.

8. FORMAT OF SUMMARY JUDGMENT STATEMENT OF FACTS

In opposing a motion for summary judgment, the non-moving party shall format his or her statement of disputed (and undisputed) material facts pursuant to Local Rule 56.1. The non-moving/opposing party shall respond paragraph by paragraph to the statement of undisputed material facts submitted by the moving party. The responsive portion of the non-moving opposing party's statement shall repeat the statement verbatim as set forth in the moving party's statement and respond to it by admitting the statement or pointing out that portion of the statement, if any, he or she disputes. The non-moving/opposing party will state with particularity that portion of the allegation denied, citing to any evidentiary support for the denial. For example:

Moving Party: 1. Plaintiff began working for Defendant Employer on March 1, 2016.

Response: 1. Plaintiff admits that Plaintiff began working for Defendant Employer on March 1, 2016.

9. PRETRIAL DISCLOSURE SHEET [FED.R.CIV.P. 26(a)(3)]

Pretrial disclosure sheets must be filed simultaneously by the parties according to the outline contained in Local Rule 26.2 with copies to the Courtroom Deputy, Heather Clark, and opposing counsel no later than **October 28, 2022**. The Court's requirement that witnesses and exhibits must be listed on the pretrial information sheet does not relieve a party of the obligation to provide the names of witnesses and exhibits in response to discovery requests.

10. DEPOSITIONS TO BE USED AT TRIAL OTHER THAN FOR IMPEACHMENT

The proffering party must designate the pertinent portions of a deposition to be used as evidence at trial by **October 28, 2022**. Counter-designations must be made by **November 8, 2022**. Objections to any deposition or videotapes that will be used at trial must be made by written motion indicating the specific objection and its legal basis by **November 11, 2022**, with the response due **November 15, 2022**. Depositions to be read at trial must be marked as exhibits.

11. TRIAL BRIEF AND PROPOSED FINDINGS OF FACT AND CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

The parties must simultaneously submit trial briefs and proposed findings of fact and conclusions of law on or before **November 7, 2022**. The briefs should discuss any evidentiary issues that are expected to arise and other issues that the Court may need to decide at trial. Reply briefs, if any, must be submitted to the Court on or before **November 14, 2022**. A reply should specify those fact findings proposed by the opposing party that will be controverted at trial.

12. STIPULATIONS

The parties should stipulate in writing to the facts not in controversy on or before **November 23, 2022**.

13. CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

Counsel must promptly check the Court's list of financial interests on file in the U.S. District Clerk's Office to determine whether there is any conflict that might require recusal. If any party is a subsidiary or affiliate of any company in which the Court has a financial interest, bring that fact to the Court's attention immediately.

14. COURTROOM TECHNOLOGY

Before any pre-trial hearing, and as soon as practicable before any other hearing or trial, counsel should contact Heather Clark, Courtroom Deputy, at 501-604-5164, or heather_clark@ared.uscourts.gov about technology needs. She will coordinate with the Court's IT department. Any plan for use of non-Court technology must be approved by the IT department.

Please communicate with Heather Clark, Courtroom Deputy, at 501-604-5164, or heather_clark@ared.uscourts.gov, to ascertain your position on the calendar as the trial date approaches. In the event of settlement, advise Mrs. Clark immediately. The case will not be removed from the trial docket until an order of dismissal has been entered.

**AT THE DIRECTION OF THE COURT
TAMMY H. DOWNS, CLERK**

By: Heather Clark
Courtroom Deputy to
Judge Lee P. Rudofsky

September 2, 2021